

A most pleasant Ballad of patient Griffell. To the tune of the Brides good morrow.

A Noble Marques as he did ride on hunting
hard by a Forrest side:
I proper Garden as he did sit a spinning
his gentle eye espyde. (the)
With faire & lowly, and of courteous grace was
although in simple attire: (lodiously)
She sang full sweet with pleasant voyce me-
which set the Lordes hart on fire.
The more he looked the more he might,
Deauntie byed his hartes delight,
and to this dainty Damsell then he went:
God speede quoth he, thou famous flower,
faire mistress of this homely dower, (tent)
where lone I vertue liues with sweet con-

With comely iustice & courteous milde behaui-
he had him welcome then: (our)
She entertaind him in faithfull friendly maner
and all his Gentlemen.
the noble marques in his hart felt such a flame
which set his senses at strife: (thy name)
Quoth he, faire maiden thou me soone what is
I meane to make thee my wife.
Griffell is my name quoth she,
fairest bairn for your degree,
a filly Whapden and of parent's poore.
Say Griffell thou art rich he sayd,
I vertuous faire and comely Whapd,
graunt me thy lone, and I wil aske no more.

At length he consented, & being both contented
they married were with speed:
Her comely curter was changed to silk & velvet
as to her state agreed.
And when she was trimly tyed in the same,
her beauty shined most bright,
for shining every other bairn & comely dame,
that did appeare in her sight.
My emyled her therefore,
Because he was of parents poore,
and twice her Lord & the great strife did raise
Some sayd this, and some sayd that,
Some did call her beggers bairn,
and to her lord they would her soone dispraise

O noble Marques (quoth they) why doe you
thus bairn for to wed? (wong by)
That might haue gotten an honorable Lady,
into your princely bed.
Who will not now your noble issue still decide
which shall hereafter be borne:
That are of blood so base by their mothers side
the which will bying them in scoyne:
But her therefore quite away,
Take to you a Lady gay,
whereby your linage may renowned be:
Thus every day they seemde to prate,
That malist Griffells good estate,
who took all this most milde and patiently.

When that the marques did see that they were
against his faithfull wife, (went thus)
Whom he not deersly, tenderly, and entirely,
beloued as his life.
Spinding in secret for to proue her patient hart
therby her foes to disgrace:
Thinking to play a hard incourteous part,

that men might pittie her case.
Great with childe this Lady was,
And at length it came to passe,
two goodly children at one birth she had:
I sonne and daughter: God had sent,
Which did their father well content, (glad)
and which did make their mothers hart full

Great ropall feasting was at this Childrens
and princely triumph made: (christning)
Sixe weeks together, all nobles that came thi-
were entertaind and faine: (cher)
And wht that all those pleasant sportings quite
the Marques a messenger sent: (were done)
for his pong daughter, & his pryncy smiling son
declaring his full intent:
How that the babes must marryd be,
for so the Marques did decree,
come let me haue the children then he sayd:
With that faire Griffell wept full soze,
She wung her hands and sayd no more,
my gracious Lord must haue his wil obaid.

She took the babies euen from their nursing
betwene her tender armes: (Ladies)
She often willes with many sorrowful kisses
that she might helpe their harmes.
farewel farewel a thousand times my childre
newe shall I see you againe, (deere)
tis long of me your sad & woeful mother heere
for whose sake both must be faine.
Had I beene borne of ropall race,
You mighte haue liu'd in happy case,
but you must die for my brawny chaine:
Come messenger of death said shee,
Take my despised babes to thee,
and to their father my complaints expresse.

He took the children, and to his noble maister
he byngs them both with speed:
Who secret sent them unto a noble Lady,
to be nupt up in bed:
The faire Griffell with a heauy hart he goes
where she late mildly alone:
A pleasant iustice & a lowly looker she shewes,
as if this griefe she neuer had known.
Quoth he, my childre now are faine,
What thinkes faire Griffell of the same,
sweet Griffell now declare thy mind to mee:
With you my Lord are pleas'd in it,
Poore Griffell thinks the action fit,
both I and mine at your command will be.

My nobles murmur faire Griffell at thy hono-
and I no lope can haue: (since)
Till thou be banisht both fess my court and pr-
as they brailly came:
Thou must be stript out of thy costly garments
and as thou camest to me: (all)
In homely gray in ffeed of biffe & pured pall
now all thy cloathing must be.
My Lady thou shalt be no more,
for I thy Lord, which grieues me soze,
the poorest life must now content thy minde.
I graat to thee I will not giue,
To maintaine thee while I doe liue,
against my Griffell such great loss I finde,

When gentle Griffell did heare these woofull ris-
the teares stood in her eyes: (dinge)
She nothing answered, no word of discontent
did from her lips arise.
Her velvet gown most patiently she slipped off,
her kirtles of silke with the same: (a scoffe)
her russet gown was brought again with many
to teare them all her selfe she did frame:
When she was dyed in this array,
And ready was to part away,
God send long life unto my Lord quoth shee
Let no offence be found in this,
To giue my Lord a parting kisse,
with watry eyes, farewel my deere quoth he.

from statelie Pallace into her fathers Cot-
poore Griffell now is gone: (stage)
full sixteens winters she liued there contented
no wong she thought upon: (ches went)
And at that time through all the land the spea-
the Marques should married be:
unto a Lady of high and great descent:
to the same all parties did agree.
The Marques sent for Griffell faire,
The Brides bed chamber to prepare,
that nothing therein should be found awoye
The Brides was with her brother come,
which was great ioy to all and some:
and Griffell took all this most patiently.

And in the morning when they should to the
her patience now was tride: (wedding)
Griffell was charged her self in princely maner
for to attire the Brides.
most willingly she gaue consent to do the same
the Brides in her bower was dyed:
and presently the noble Marques thither came
with all his Lordes as he request.
O Griffell I would aske quoth he,
If he would to this match agree,
me thinks her lookes are waxen wondrous
With that they all began to smile, (cop)
And Griffell he replide the while,
God send Lord Marques many yeres of ioy

The Marques was moued to see his best belo-
thus patient in distress: (wed)
He slept vnto her, and by the hand he took her
these wordes he did expresse:
Thou art my Brides, & all the Brides I meane
these two thine owne children be: (to haue)
The youthfull Lady on her knees did blessing
her brother as willing as he, (crane)
And you that emulid her estate,
Whom I haue made my louing mate,
now blush for shame, & hono: vertuous life:
The Chronicles of lasting fame,
shall euer more extoll the name,
of patient Griffell my most constant wife.

FINIS.